

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES SMALL GRANTS INITIATIVE

January 22, 2010
Public Notice

SUMMARY

The State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) announces a Request for Applications (RFA) from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that promote women's political, economic and social advancement in developing countries. S/GWI's mandate is to develop and coordinate U.S. foreign policy and programs with the goal of advancing women's political, economic and social rights worldwide. To that end, S/GWI works to increase women's and girls' access to education and health care, to combat violence against women and girls in all its forms, and to ensure that women's rights are fully integrated with human rights in the development of U.S. foreign policy.

To address the concerns and needs of women in developing countries, S/GWI is pleased to announce the launch of its first small grants initiative designed to fund worthy projects that promote women's political, economic and social advancement, improve women's leadership capacity, or enhance leadership and economic opportunities for women. Organizations should have a demonstrated capacity to work on issues related to women and are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed projects would address needs not covered by existing or other planned programs and provide measurable outcomes. Project proposals should not exceed \$100,000. For Philippine-based initiatives, the deadline for proposal submission to the U.S. Embassy in Manila is February 8, 2010.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

Within the general scope described above, organizations are encouraged to think creatively to identify and address priority issues facing women in the country. Project initiatives through this small grant initiative could include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Education: women's literacy and innovative ways to keep girls in school and help ensure safety while attending school; also, health education initiatives;
- Food security: supporting small holder female farmers through women's leadership and property rights training and land tenure reform advocacy initiatives;
- Climate change: support to women's community groups for training in adaptation and mitigation, and enhanced participation of women in climate change problem solving;
- Gender-based violence (GBV): support to NGOs or community-based resource centers in combating GBV manifesting in practices ranging from commercial-based sexual exploitation to indentured servitude; support for victims of domestic violence as well as rape;
- Economic opportunity: programs to provide training in business and management through mentoring, and support for women's artisan groups for product design, marketing, and related needs;
- Democracy and political empowerment: political and policy reform and leadership training initiatives;
- Legal reform: judicial and law enforcement training initiatives; promoting women's property rights; and equal access to justice.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Applications, including budgets and attachments, cannot not exceed six pages in length and must include the following: an executive summary of the proposed program; a statement clearly identifying the problem to be addressed; a program description, including specific activities, desired outcomes and performance measures; a detailed budget of no more than \$100,000; and a description of the recipient organization, including their technical and management capacity. Fees are not an allowable budget item. The project will not exceed 18 months in duration.

S/GWI strongly prefers to support grants to local organizations. Local organizations may also need to comply with any applicable pre-award financial management control standards for organizations receiving development assistance funds. Applications should indicate name and contact information for the project's main point of contact and, if applicable, should address how the proposed project relates to and will be coordinated with other U.S. government-funded projects conducted by the organization.

For all application documents, please ensure:

- 1) All pages are numbered, including budgets and attachments;
- 2) All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- 3) All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Organizations must submit applications to the U.S. Embassy in Manila no later than February 8, 2010. Proposals may be submitted via e-mail to Doreen Bailey (baileydp@state.gov) and Razel Torrecampo (torrecamporb@state.gov) or fax (301-2473). Applications can also be mailed to U.S. Embassy Manila, 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila 1000 Attn Razel Torrecampo, but must be received by February 8, 2010. This is a worldwide competition for assistance, and S/GWI will notify the Embassy of its funding decisions in March 2010.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated based on how effectively the proposed project addresses the issue(s) described in the problem statement, the sustainability of program accomplishments, the capacity of the recipient organization to account for the funds and ensure that funds are spent for the intended purposes, and the expected results. Priority will be given to applications that describe a project that, if successful, would have the potential to be expanded to reach a broader community. However, no additional funding commitments can be made, so the projects should be stand-alone, discrete activities that can be fully funded and completed with the resources requested through this program.